

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 11, 2006    LB 454

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I would like to talk about a few things that I wanted to talk about earlier today but got sidetracked by some of the issues in the bill. The Harvard Injury Control Research Center has done some recent studies on the whole issue of firearms and as they relate to concealed carry. I want to tell you about a few of those studies. The first one that I want to tell you about was done in 2004. It's done by a Miller M. Hemenway (sic), and I haven't read the study. All I have read is the major finding of that study, which I want to share with you. And it says...it's about firearms and suicide in the Northeast. It said: This study analyzed mortality data and hospital discharge data on self-inflicted injury and behavioral risk factor surveillance system data on household firearm ownership from seven states in the northeast. It found that firearm prevalence was positively related to the suicide rate, even after controlling for rates of attempted suicide. The next particular study that I would like to share with you was also done by Hemenway. It's actually Hemenway, Miller, instead of Miller, Hemenway. The major finding of this particular study was also about firearms and suicide, and it says that the major finding was that the review of the scientific literature on the relationship between gun ownership levels and suicide rates finds that the vast majority of current evidence indicates that gun availability is a risk factor for suicide in the U.S. The third study is done by L.L. Dahlberg and it has to do with guns in the home and risk of a violent death in the home. And it comes from the American Journal of Epidemiology, and its major finding was that...and the date on this, incidentally, is 2004. And it says that an analysis of U.S. mortality follow-back survey finds that among a sample of people who died at home, those who had a gun in the home were at significantly higher risk than those who did not of dying from homicide or from suicide, regardless of storage practice, type of gun, or number of firearms in the home. Another study done by D.A. Brent and Bridge, J., firearms, that was included in the American Behavioral Scientist and was dated 2003, had this major finding. Case-controlled studies show an association between firearms in the home and completed suicide, with higher risks associated with loaded guns and handguns in the home. Quasi-experimental studies also show a relationship between greater restrictiveness